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(54) **IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS HAVING
DETACHABLY MOUNTABLE IMAGE
FORMING UNIT**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An image forming apparatus includes a plurality of image forming units that are each configured to be detachably mountable and include an image carrier; an irradiation unit configured to irradiate respective image carriers of the plurality of image forming units with light to form one or more electrostatic latent images along a direction of the rotational driving; a detection unit configured to detect the electrostatic latent images; a determination unit configured to determine mounted states of the plurality of image forming units based on a detection result by the detection unit; and a control unit configured to perform control such that, for each of the image carriers, the electrostatic latent images are not formed on an image carrier in a period in which at least one of the one or more electrostatic latent images is formed on a different image carrier.

30 Claims, 21 Drawing Sheets

